



S04-06 0A. Polyvalent Gag-specific CD8 T-cells with enhanced functional properties are enriched in HIV-1 clade C infected individuals with lower viral loads

Citation

Julg, B., K. L. Williams, S. Reddy, K. Bishop, P. J. Goulder, T. Ndung'u, and B. D. Walker. 2009. S04-06 0A. Polyvalent Gag-specific CD8 T-cells with enhanced functional properties are enriched in HIV-1 clade C infected individuals with lower viral loads. *Retrovirology* 6(Suppl 3): 048.

Published Version

doi:10.1186/1742-4690-6-S3-048

Permanent link

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:4885945>

Terms of Use

This article was downloaded from Harvard University's DASH repository, and is made available under the terms and conditions applicable to Other Posted Material, as set forth at <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:dash.current.terms-of-use#LAA>

Share Your Story

The Harvard community has made this article openly available.
Please share how this access benefits you. [Submit a story](#).

[Accessibility](#)

Oral presentation

Open Access

S04-06 OA. Polyvalent Gag-specific CD8 T-cells with enhanced functional properties are enriched in HIV-1 clade C infected individuals with lower viral loads

B Julg^{*1}, KL Williams¹, S Reddy², K Bishop², PJ Goulder³, T Ndung'u² and BD Walker¹

Address: ¹Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard, Charlestown, USA, ²HIV Pathogenesis Programme, DDMRI, UKZN, Durban, South Africa and ³University of Oxford, Department of Pediatrics, Oxford, UK

* Corresponding author

from AIDS Vaccine 2009
Paris, France. 19–22 October 2009

Published: 22 October 2009

Retrovirology 2009, **6**(Suppl 3):O48 doi:10.1186/1742-4690-6-S3-O48

This abstract is available from: <http://www.retrovirology.com/content/6/S3/O48>

© 2009 Julg et al; licensee BioMed Central Ltd.

Background

Gag-specific CD8 T-cell responses have repeatedly been associated with lower viremia. However, no functional mechanism has been determined thus far. By using an array of cellular assays we aimed to identify characteristics of CD8 T-cells, which are associated with enhanced anti-viral control.

Methods

26 patients with broad (> 6) or narrow (< 1) gag responses assessed by IFN- γ Elispot were selected from 288 untreated HIV-1 clade C-infected South Africans. We controlled for disease progression and total numbers of HIV specific CD8 T-cells. Infected or uninfected CD4 T-cells from both groups were co-cultured with autologous unstimulated CD8 T-cells. HIV-1 replication was measured by p24 ELISA. Phenotypes and cytokine profiles were assessed by flow. Proliferation was measured by CFSE dilution.

Results

Viral load was lower in individuals that generate broad gag responses compared to persons with few or no Gag-specific responses. CD8 T-cells from high gag responders suppressed HIV-1 replication more potently than those from low gag responders (mean Log₁₀ inhibition: 1.38 vs 0.5, $p < 0.004$). Furthermore, CD8 T-cells from high gag responders secreted a more 2 and 3- functional cytokine

profile than low gag responders, who mainly exhibited mono-functional CD8 T-cells. The ability to respond poly-functionally was significantly correlated with the ability to inhibit viral replication *in vitro*. Furthermore, CD8 T-cells from high gag responders showed a stronger proliferative capacity. However, no difference in the maturation status of HIV-specific CD8 T-cells was observed.

Conclusion

Subjects who target more epitopes in gag exhibit lower viral loads than subjects who target this protein less. This enhanced viral control is associated with an elevated CD8 T-cell inhibitory capacity, enhanced proliferation, poly-functional cytokine secretion, but no difference in the maturation status of CD8 T-cells. This data indicates that it is not the phenotype but the specificity and functional capacity that are indicative of effective antiviral CD8 T-cell function.